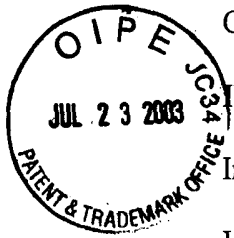


10/019,931



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Luc VARIN *et al*

Group Art Unit 1653

Application. No.: 10/019,931

Filed: May 10, 2002

For: METHOD, COMPOSITIONS AND GENETIC SEQUENCES FOR
MODULATING FLOWERING PLANTS, AND PLANTS GENETICALLY MODIFIED
TO FLOWER EARLY AND TARDILY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

STATUS INQUIRY

Dear Commissioner:

The above-identified application was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 10, 2002. To date, no office action has been received. Applicants respectfully request that they be informed of the status of the referenced application.

The Applicants believe that no fee is required with regard to this Request.

However, in the event that a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1710.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert R. Seabold, Ph.D.

Registration No. 41,298

Gilberto M. Villacorta, PH.D.

Registration No. 34,038

Patent Administrator
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN
525 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3963
Fax: (312) 906-1021
(202) 625-3500
Date: July 23, 2003